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Music Reviews

Crue chronicles decadent decade

By Chris Eklof  
The Battalion

Motley Crue  
Decade of Decadence  
Elektra

Ten years of playing hard and partying hard have changed Motley Crue.

They started out as another big hair band, turned into a makeup-coated glam band, and finally threw away the makeup and became a motorcycle and leather jacket band. Their early days of wild parties and deadly car crashes have turned into slightly quieter days of married life and anti-drug songs. *Decade of Decadence* charts the Crue's musical exploits and changes over the last 10 years.

The songs for the album were not chosen by their popularity. The Crue wanted an even representation of their work, so they took two songs off each of their five albums. Throw in two little heard songs, a cover tune and two new songs and you have *Decade of Decadence*.

So what is different about this album? Well, three early Crue songs were remixed. "Live Wire" and "Piece of Your Action" from *Too Fast For Love* and "Home Sweet Home" from *Theatre of Pain* receive a new turn at the mixing board.

A live version of "Kickstart My Heart" is another new track. Recorded in Dallas in July 1990, the live version gives a peek at the Crue in concert. A concert recording can never fully capture a band's personality, but this version of "Kickstart My Heart" does give the song a few new twists.

The Crue does a pretty good job of covering the Sex Pistols' "Anarchy in the U.K.," but how much feeling can a California band put into a British punk rock anthem? This song has also been remade by Megadeth, but the Crue's commercial power gives their version a greater chance of becoming a hit.

The two brand new songs are "Primal Scream" and "Angela." "Primal Scream" sounds like its name with basic loud primal guitars and plenty of howling by lead screamer Vince Neil.

The other song, "Angela" bears more than a slight resemblance to "Same Old Situation" from



Dr. Feelgood. It starts slow, grows faster and leads to the same type of harmony chorus that was "S.O.S."

The other two songs on *Decade of Decadence* are from non-Crue albums. "Teaser" appears on the anti-drug album *Stairway to Heaven, Highway Hell* and "Rock 'n' Roll Junkie" was on *The Attributes of Ford Fairlane* soundtrack.

With only two songs off of each album, some of your favorite Crue songs were bound to be missed. A greatest hits package is a record of what the people like. On many albums the best songs never heard on any radio station and people's favorite songs are not the big hits.

If you're a serious Crue fan who has all their albums, you might want to get *Decade of Decadence* for the new songs and the new versions of old songs.

If you're a not-so-serious fan, then *Decade of Decadence* is probably pretty good for you as well. This album will give you a collection of the Crue's music on just one album. After listening to it, you might want to go buy an old album so you can have all the other songs that you might think are better than their hits.

Don't pick up Pixies latest release

By Kevin Robinson  
The Battalion

Pixies  
"Trompe le Monde"  
Elektra/ 4AD

Groan. I was looking at the new Pixies album, *Trompe le Monde*, the other day just hoping it would sound a whole lot better than their last over-produced piece of garbage, *Bossanova*. My hopes weren't high. I mean, this one doesn't even have a really cool, artsy cover!

Besides, everybody knows that the Pixies really haven't done anything worth listening to since the *Surfer Rosa* and *Come On Pilgrim* E.P.'s of a few years back. Oh, I know they're now supposed to be the biggest American export to Britain since the Ramones, but since when was popularity any indication of quality anyway?

*Trompe le Monde* tries to break the overdone feeling of the past two albums. I guess after the flak that Black Francis and co. took over *Bossanova*, he's decided a rawer, style would work better. From the beginning of the record, Joey Santiago has his guitar turned up to eleven, and Francis uses the "screaming hyena" vocal style of the band's glory days.

Well, this works on a few of the songs. While the Pixies may be trying to recover a little of their youth on the new album, the authentic roughness just isn't there. On the other hand, how can you completely dismiss an album with lyrics like, "Oh kiss my ass, oh let it rock!" Hmmm.

The best songs on the album, "Planet of Sound" and "Space (I Believe In)" somehow manage to take the best of the Pixies old style and combine it with something new. "Planet" has Francis using vocal distortion, something he provides fairly well enough on his own thank you, but which makes a nice touch anyway. I also got into the song basically being only a repetition of the title. The band isn't trying to be cool or sophisticated on these, they just want some grungy, raw garage songs, and it works.

Another pleasant surprise came with the inclusion of a Jesus and Mary Chain cover, "Head On". While the Pixies don't really add anything to the song, I give 'em extra points for including it. It's



just too bad that they blatantly rip off the melody of the cover song later in the album, "Lovely Day".

The new songs lyrics take a turn from bizarre just stupid. The only one truly worth mentioning here is a piece on Utah's Great Salt Lake, entitled "Palace of the Brine". Anything speaking reverently of that happy family, the Sea Monkeys, should be committed to memory. Other lyrics are a lot less interesting this time around, or worse, just forgettable.

Maybe my biggest gripe with the album, is the exclusion of Kim Deal from any vocal duties at all (except for some weak backing melodies). It seems like Francis has been trying to get Deal out of the spotlight for the past year or so, but the fact remains that the contrast between the two vocal styles is the lifeblood of this band. And to be honest, Deal is hell of a lot better singer.

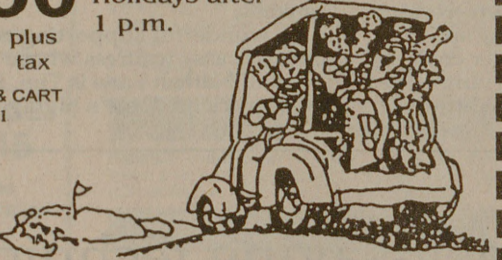
At one time the Pixies were one of the best acts on the American rock scene, but the band's grown stale over the past several years. There's definite life to a band, but most groups refuse to solve until the "living dead" stage. I hate to see the Pixies become one of them.

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